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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 3, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 29 totaled an estimated 19.0 billion ton-miles, 4.1 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 35 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 612.6 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 29 totaled 456,613 cars, 2.2 percent above 1980, and 4.1 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 11.8 percent in the East and 1.0 percent in the South, but down 3.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 13 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 139,877, the highest individual week since June 20, 1957, and 19.5 percent over last year. Sixteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended August 22 totaled 33,058 cars, up 4.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 59,368 trailers and/or containers, up 3.9 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 34 weeks of the year was 1,100,806 cars, 1.3 percent higher than last year, and 1,987,858 trailers and/or containers, 0.4 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/29/81:

	<u>Loadings in</u> <u>Week ended</u> <u>August 29, 1981</u>		<u>Change from</u> <u>Corresponding</u> <u>Week 1980</u>		<u>Change from</u> <u>Preceding</u> <u>Week</u>	
	Cars		Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	27,208	D	5,999	18.1	D	1,030 3.6
Other farm products	3,125	D	524	14.4	I	123 4.1
Metallic ores	36,190	I	7,846	27.7	D	623 1.7
Coal	139,877	I	22,803	19.5	I	9,990 7.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,012	D	1,499	10.3	I	475 3.8
Nonmetallic minerals	13,611	D	1,938	12.5	D	99 0.7
Grain mill products	14,218	D	3,580	20.1	I	679 5.0
Food and kindred products	15,843	D	3,292	17.2	I	213 1.4
Primary forest products	18,938	D	692	3.5	I	715 3.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,585	D	2,556	25.2	I	279 3.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,327	D	1,334	6.5	I	49 0.3
Chemicals and allied products	26,393	D	2,103	7.4	I	1,065 4.2
Petroleum products	5,338	D	104	1.9	I	4 0.1
Stone, clay and glass products	13,280	D	2,780	17.3	D	243 1.8
Coke	6,935	I	2,831	69.0	I	511 8.0
Metals and products	15,506	I	1,008	7.0	I	1,376 9.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,945	I	68	0.5	D	321 2.4
Waste and scrap materials	11,832	I	565	5.0	I	19 0.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,040	D	1,606	13.8	I	537 5.7
All other carloads	45,154	I	2,903	6.9	I	4,388 10.8
LCL traffic	256	I	17	7.1	I	53 26.1
Total Cars Loaded	456,613	I	10,034	2.2	I	18,160 4.1
Corresponding week of 1980	446,579					
	<u>1981</u>		<u>1980</u>		<u>% Change</u>	
Total Cars Loaded (35 weeks)	14,616,263		15,200,601		D	3.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):						
34 Weeks cumulative	593.6		594.8		D	0.2
Week ended August 29	19.0		18.3		I	4.1
35 Weeks cumulative	612.6		613.0		D	0.1